

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 00706 251053Z

10

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
----- 024985

R 250925Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5270

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

S E C R E T TEHRAN 0706

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: SHAH'S CONCERNS ABOUT AFRICAN DEVELOPMENTS

1. WHEN THE AMBASSADOR SAW MINISTER OF COURT ALAM EVENING  
OF JANUARY 24 TO ASK HIM ABOUT THE VISIT OF MAURITANIA  
SPECIAL ENVOY OULDGIDO'S VISIT (SEPTTEL), ALAM SAID THAT THE

SHAH HAD INSTRUCTED HIM TO ASK US ABOUT THE RECENT VISIT OF  
GENERAL GIAP TO ALGERIA, WHY HAD HE GONE THERE, AND WHAT  
WAS HE UP TO. FURTHER, HE WANTED TO KNOW WHAT THE SOVIETS  
WERE UP TO IN ETHIOPIA. HE SAID THAT IT WAS CLEAR WHAT THEY  
WERE UP TO IN ANGOLA AND IT WAS CLEAR THAT THEY HAD ESTAB-  
LISHED THEIR INFLUENCE IN SOMALIA. IN THE  
SHAH'S VIEW, DJIBOUTI WOULD ALSO FALL UNDER THE INFLUENCE  
OF SOMALIA AND INDIRECTLY UNDER SOVIER INFLUENCE ONCE IT  
BECAME INDEPENDENT. IN OTHER WORDS, THE SOMUETS SEEMED  
TO BE DRAWING A CIRCLE AROUND AFRICA. BECAUSE OF REDUCED  
OIL LIFTINGS AND THE EVER-EXCALATING COSTS OF US ARMS, IRAN  
NOW FINDS ITSELF UNABLE TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT THESE  
DEVELOPMENTS. IT MUST FOREGO ITS PLANS TO BE A  
STABLIZING INFLUENCE BEYOND ITS OWN BORDERS, FORGET THE  
IDEA OF ESTABLISHING A PRESENCE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN, OR  
SHOWING THE FALG ALONG THE EASTERN AFRICAN COAST. THE

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PAGE 02 TEHRAN 00706 251053Z

SHAH WONDERS WHETHER THE US HAS CONSIDERED THE CONSE-

QUENCES OF A "WEAKENED IRAN" UNABLE TO HELP DETER THE  
EXPANSION OF SOVIET INFLUENCE IN AFRICA AND THE INDIAN OCEAN.

2. ACCORDING TO ALAM, THE SHAH ASKED THAT AMBASSADOR  
TAKE UP THESE QUESTIONS DURING HIS CURRENT VISIT TO  
WASHINGTON.

3. ALAM CALLED CHARGE MORNING OF JANUARY 25 TO SAY THAT  
THE SHAH HAD AN ADDITIONAL QUESTION HE  
WISHED OUR EVALUATION ON, CONCERNING THE CUBAN PRESENCE  
IN SOUTH YEMEN. HE SAID CUBA'S PRESNECE NOW AMOUNTS TO  
4,000 AND IS A THREAT OF GROWING CONCERN TO SULTAN QABUS  
AND SAUDI ARABIA. NEEDLESS TO SAY, IT IS ALSO OF MAJOR  
CONCERN TO IRAN, GIVEN ITS ROLE IN OMAN AND CONTINUED  
PRESENCE THERE.

MIKLOS

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** INTERVENTION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 25 JAN 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** SmithRJ  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976TEHRAN00706  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760028-0979  
**From:** TEHRAN  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Line Count:** 77  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION SS  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** SmithRJ  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 03 JUN 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <03 JUN 2004 by buchant0>; APPROVED <28 SEP 2004 by SmithRJ>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SHAH'S CONCERNS ABOUT AFRICAN DEVELOPMENTS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, IR, AO, MR, UR, (PAHLAVI, MOHAMMAD REZA)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006